

A plan to prevent fires from spreading. After failing in the paramount object of immediately extinguishing a fire, the most important purpose to prevent its spreading to adjoining buildings, or communicating to the opposite square. To prevent it from crossing the street, doubtless the following simple and cheap plan will be found effective, if taken in time:

Rivet rings securely six or eight feet apart, to the upper side of ordinary hose, the hose to be perforated with holes on one side every six inches. This hose is to be hung up under the cornice, or between the brick or stone, the rings attached to the hose being put on over the spike-heads, thus holding it securely in place. It can be put up rapidly by the hook and ladder company. Then attach an ordinary tight hose to the end of this perforated hose and bring down to the ground and back to the engine. One engine will force through this hose a sufficient stream to cover the cornice and the entire front of several houses with a steady sheet of water. If the perforated hose extends a considerable distance, or a whole square, put an engine to the other end. These engines standing out of reach of the fire, will force water through the hose long after the firemen are driven from the front of the house on fire, or from the street; and as the hose will always be wet from water splashing against the cornice and against the wall, it will not be easily burned. With proper activity on the roofs of houses, the fronts of which are thus protected, it will be almost impossible for any ordinary fire to spread. Of course, in this giving the plan briefly, many details are omitted, such as the best and quickest way to put up the perforated hose, means necessary to adopt where houses are of different heights, and to utilize the gutters.

This plan, in ordinary cases, will not only effectively prevent fires from spreading, but in narrow and even ordinary streets, will protect the buildings opposite from having the cornice, window sash, frames or blinds burnt or blistered with the heat, or glass from being broken, often of great value. This alone will more than pay the cost at nearly every considerable fire. Is this plan new? If so, how easy to test it.

A. W. BROWN, Washington, D. C.

Grace Greenwood, in a recent letter to the N. Y. Times, dated at Salt Lake City, thus speaks of the new poet, Joaquin Miller, then in that city and sojourning in the same household:

"In person he strongly reminds one of N. P. Willis; but in manner and character he is most unlike that dainty poet and brilliant man of society. He is a simple, unassuming, and apparently unpoetical English adulation and social petting. He seems to be a man of no disguises or pretensions, is still, where he feels at ease, as impulsive, natural and unsuspecting as a boy, yet not wanting in keen perceptions of character and a certain cool, quiet shrewdness, which, if I mistake not, has a good deal to do with the late remarkable success in literature. Undoubtedly he has genius, but he seems to lack, if not the artistic faculty, the habit of systematic efforts and conscientious study. Yet he looks as much like the artist and the student as the 'Wild Singer of the Sierras.' He dresses like a young painter, showing his brown velvet coat and dark sombrero and rich fur overcoat, his jewelry, and crimson necktie, an eye for effect of light and shade, a sensuous delight in ornament and color. But his face is pale and thoughtful, the expression of his eyes grave and introverted, and he has something of a scholarly stoop. In short, he looks far more like a man who spent his best years over the desk, than like the hunter, the miner, the reckless rider and fighter, the daring, romantic frontiersman that he is said to be. Doubtless our literature needs some freshening, half foreign element, and it may be that new life and strength will flow into it through the songs of the most imaginative and dramatic poet—but he seems to me to be in danger of thinking that great poems sing themselves—that he can continue to take the world as he took the London critics by a wild galloping swing of verse—by a mountain air rush of strong fancy, by a prairie fire sweep of passion without careful, constant culture. But he is a man in his prime; his career is now in his own hands, and neither counsel nor criticism can make or mar it."

OFFENDED DIGNITY.—The Democracy have had a clear working majority in Illinois, for a number of years. But when the Fifteenth Amendment went into effect, it enfranchised so many of the "colored brethren" as to make it apparent to our party leaders that, unless a good many black votes could be bought up, the Republicans would carry the city election. Accordingly advances were made to the Rev. Brother, whose influence it was thought desirable to secure, inasmuch as he was certain to control the votes of his entire church. He was found "open to conviction," and arrangements progressed satisfactorily, until it was asked how much money would be necessary to secure his vote and influence.

With an air of offended dignity Brother replied:

"Now, gentlemen, as a regular awdinated minister of the Baptist Church, distinguishing himself as far as my conscience will; 'low, but, gentlemen, my son will call round to see you in de mornin'."

A PENITENT MILKMAN.—Not long since, during an excited protracted meeting held in one of the frontier towns of Michigan, a man named Wilson, who for years had sold milk to some of the villagers, but becoming seriously alarmed as to his spiritual condition, went forward to the anxious seat and solicited the prayers of the congregation. In due time he became penitent, and arose to make his confession. Among other transgressions of which he had been guilty, he owned to have frequently watered the milk he had sold. In the midst of his confession, while telling his milk story, the minister, a very worthy man, who dispensed cheatings of all kinds, exclaimed:

"Sit down, sit down, Brother Wilson! If you say much more, they'll have you in the penitentiary in less than a week!"

Brother Wilson sat down.

Josh Billings says in his "Lecter":

"Rats originally came from Norway, and nobody would have cared if they had originally staid there. A lady friend remarks that they still show their gnaw-away origin."

Some time since, a variety merchant in the country wished to order from a hardware store in the city something for his tailor customer, and wrote as follows: "Please send me two tailors' gooses." Not liking the grammar, and fearing his New York friends would laugh at him, he destroyed that order and wrote: "Please send me two tailors' goose." After the letter was sealed, he was troubled in his mind lest they should send him a couple of live geese, purchased from some tailor, when he took the document from the postoffice, destroyed it, and for two days thought of nothing except how to word his order so it could be understood, and according to grammar. At last he gave it up in despair, and wrote:

"Please send me one tailor's goose—and, d—n it, send me another one just like it."

How is this for a sermon in church? The place is a sacred edifice in Bath, Maine. The pew is crowded. The sermon is long. A respectable citizen goes to sleep. In close proximity to him is a lady. The preacher was in the midst of the closing prayer, when the slumberer astonished the congregation by grunting in a tone of complaint: "Come, come, Sarah! lay along; don't crowd 'so! lay over!" Sarah, who was fortunately in the pew also, never for a moment lost her presence of mind, but administered a timely poke with her parasol, which awakened her dormant lord, and prevented any further remarks on his part. A warning to sleepy auditors or long-winded preachers—no matter which.

The Chicago Times, a few days ago contained this notice: An ambitious photographer on yesterday hunted up an old hag in whose barn the fire is supposed to have originated. She asked him \$25 for sitting for his picture, so, with commendable economy, he found another woman who was willing to let him do it for \$5, and he at once took her photo. It is supposed that he will offer this picture for sale with this inscription: "This is the woman all forlorn, who milked the cow with crumpled horn that kicked the lamp that fired the barn, that burned the town that Long John built."

A singular evidence of Oregon's antiquity was recently taken out of the ground at Tillamook Heads. It appears that some men were grading a road bed, and, when twenty-five feet below the surface, one of them exhumed a copper bowie knife over twenty-two inches long, two and a half inches wide, by three-eighths of an inch thick. The curiosity was sent to C. Roop, of Dayton, who has it in his museum. Here is another mystery for the older inhabitants to explain. The knife was found of the best copper.

A dealer in fertilizers, down in Alabama, bragging of his guano, says that a farmer recently put a quantity of it into his pocket, in which there happened to be a carpet tack, and started home on horseback. Before reaching his house his steed broke down, and the farmer was at a loss to discover the cause, until he found that the carpet tack had grown to be a long bar of railway iron.

If there is any time when a man must stand for himself and for his manhood, and keep his hands clean and his heart pure, it is when things are going wrong against him. They will only go that way a little while. In the end everything will serve an honest man. Such is God's decree. All the universe is helping a man to be manly who will only help himself.

That was a beautiful idea expressed by a lady on her death bed, in reply to a remark of her brother, who was taking leave of her to turn to his distant residence, that he would probably never meet her in the land of the living. "Brother, I trust we shall meet in the land of the living. We are now in the land of the dying."

A member of the Masonic fraternity telegraphed to a companion, "Make room for ten Royal Arch Masons. Coming to-day." When the companions arrived they found a pen had been built for their accommodation. The telegram, at its destination, reading, "Make room for ten R. A. M's. Coming to-day."

Gracie Darling and Ida Lewis have a rival in an Irish lady, who, when men refused to face the storm, rowed out to a wrecked ship near the mouth of the Boyne, and rescued a man left on the sinking hulk.

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